

Arsonist Tries to Destroy School Files

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Torrance

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Miss Torrance and Court



NEW QUEEN CROWNED . . . Susan Foster, 17-year-old Narbonne High School senior, was crowned the new Miss Torrance Friday night to succeed Jan Bradshaw. On the left is Princess Cynthia Hanny, 19, a South High grad now attending El Camino College, and on the right is Princess Sharon Florez, 17. Queen Susan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Foster; Cynthia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Hanny (Dad's a South High coach); and Sharon is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Florez, all of Torrance. (Press-Herald Photo by Mike Eggers)

Patient Bandit Waits, Then Holds Up Office

Edison Office Looted

A "clean cut and neat" gunman waited quietly Thursday afternoon for the manager of a downtown Torrance office, then fled with \$1,183 in cash after binding his victims.

The gunman entered the Southern California Edison Co. office at 1437 Marcellina St. about 2:30 p.m. and told Lorraine Johnson, 23, "This is a hold up, I have a gun in my pocket."

The bandit took \$850 from Miss Johnson after instructing her to "be calm." Then he demanded more.

The victim told the gunman the manager, who had left the office a few moments before, had the rest of the money with him. Undismayed, the bandit sat down and waited for the manager's return.

When John W. Watro, 32, entered the office, the gunman waved a .32-caliber revolver and took another \$333. He then forced both victims into a back room and tied their hands.

Watro told police the bandit left the office through the front door. He said the gunman was about 26 and of Mexican ancestry.



CENTER DESCRIBED . . . Edgardo Contini, partner in the Victor Gruen Associates firm, explains details of the new Del Amo Financial Center here to Guilford Glazer (left), one of the codvelopers; Roy A. Kite Jr. (second from right), vice president of the

Henry C. Beck Co., general contractors; and D. Loring Marlett, vice president and general manager of Great Lakes Properties, Inc., associated with Glazer as codveloper. Groundbreaking for the \$30 million complex was Friday.

He Homes in on TV Antenna, But Fails

A burglar who apparently used an antenna as a guide won't be watching color television, but his victim is still minus a set.

Joseph J. Lafond, 45, of 18108 Faysmith Ave., reported the theft of a black-and-white television set about 8:30 p.m. Friday. Lafond said the set is worth about \$200.

Police investigating the burglary said the thief entered the Lafond home through an unlocked bedroom window and removed the television set. Officers noted a color television antenna was on the roof.

A SECOND television set was reported taken from the apartment of Leonard L. Hines, 34, of 22413 Ocean Ave. Police said the burglar broke a small hole in a window, then pried off the lock to gain entrance.

Hines did not put a value on the 19-inch portable set. Theft of a doctor's bag was reported by Wyndham

Mooring, M.D., about 1:15 p.m. Friday. Dr. Mooring said the bag, which is worth about \$325, was taken from the trunk of his car.

16-Year-Old Treated for Crash Hurts

A 16-year-old Los Angeles student was treated for minor injuries Friday morning following a collision at Arlington Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard.

Robert E. Shilts Jr. was treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital for injuries to his left leg. Shilts was injured when his motorcycle struck a car driven by Wilma M. Van Camp, 47, of 5126 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., about 9 a.m.

Torrance police said Mrs. Van Camp was attempting a left turn from the eastbound lanes on Sepulveda Boulevard when the accident occurred. Mrs. Van Camp said she was behind a truck and was unable to see oncoming traffic until she entered the intersection. She stopped, but Shilts was unable to avoid the crash.

A 56-year-old Torrance man refused medical aid Friday afternoon after his car was struck from the rear by a Torrance fire engine.

Police said the crash, which occurred at Post Avenue and Sartori Street, knocked down a stop sign.

Gilbert H. Whitacre, 2036 1/2 Santa Fe Ave., refused medical attention.

Thomas Hayton, 40, driver of the fire engine, said he was responding to a car fire alarm at 1327 El Prado and was northbound on Post Avenue. He slowed and braked the engine when he saw the car in front, but was unable to bring the engine to a halt.

The collision pushed Whitacre's car onto the sidewalk, knocking down the stop sign.

Police said the burglar apparently used a key to open the trunk. The car was parked in the driveway at the Mooring home at 25201 Loytan St.

Janitor Discovers Fire Try

A BURGLAR escaped from a North Torrance bar with an unknown number of coins when the burglar alarm failed to report the intruder's presence. Police said the burglar pried open a rear door, then opened the coin boxes on a juke box and a cigarette machine. The bar office also was ransacked, police said.

The burglar entered the bar in the pre-dawn hours Friday.

Theft of two wheels and tires from a truck was reported by Morris K. Jones, 46, of 2506 W. 181st St., early Saturday.

Jones told police someone jacked up the truck, which was parked near a service station at 17405 S. Crenshaw Blvd., and removed the wheels. He placed the loss at \$225.

Home Construction Lags Behind Other Building

Industrial and commercial construction continued to pace building activity in Torrance during February, according to a report just released by John J. McKinnon, superintendent of building and safety for the city.

McKinnon said a total of \$1,634,008 in new building permits was issued during the month — about \$1.1 million less than in January. Seven permits accounted for more than a million of the total, he added.

No permits were issued during the month for apartments, and only eight new dwelling units will be built

Civic Leaders Help Begin 'New Era' Finance Center

A new era of commercial growth for Torrance was ushered in Friday when groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the \$30 million Del Amo Financial Center.

The damage was discovered shortly before 7 a.m. Friday by Alex Bender, a custodian at the school. Bender told Torrance police he discovered a broken window in one of the classrooms and saw the charred filing cabinet when he went to investigate.

Police said someone apparently broke the window, then unlatched and opened the window to enter the classroom. (Continued on A-3)

Civic Leaders Help Begin 'New Era' Finance Center

it officially launches Torrance as a major entity in the Southern California financial community. Torrance, with an estimated population of nearly 140,000, recently supplanted Glendale as the third largest city in Los Angeles County.

More than 250 civic officials, local businessmen, and representatives of the press heard D. Loring Marlett, vice president and general manager of Great Lakes Properties, Inc., describe both the 20-acre financial center and the proposed development of an additional 180 acres in the vicinity.

At the same time, Harry J. Volk, president of Union Bank, announced that his firm will locate a regional banking headquarters in the center.

UNION BANK, also one of the principal lenders on the project, will serve the entire Torrance and South Bay areas from its Del Amo regional office. The bank will occupy approximately 30,000 square feet on the first three floors of the new 13-story Union Bank building.

Occupying the outdoor podium in addition to Mayor Isen, Volk, and Marlett were Alphonzo Bell, congressman from the 28th district; Burton W. Chace, chairman of the board and supervisor from the fourth district, Los Angeles County; Guilford Glazer, president of Guilford Glazer & Associates, partners with Great Lakes Properties

in the venture; and Harry Gorman, resident project manager.

In addition to the co-owners, the development team includes Victor Gruen Associates, architects; Jack Bevas and Associates, consultant planners; Economic Research Associates, economic consultants; and Henry C. Beck Company, general contractors.

LUNCHEON followed the groundbreaking ceremonies under a tent erected on the site. A model and sketches of the completed financial center were displayed.

To have more than one million square feet of office space when fully developed, the office complex will contain a series of soaring towers and curved pavilion buildings arranged in concentric circles around a circular core. (Continued on Page A-3)

Los Angeles Youth Held In Burglary

Torrance police arrested an 18-year-old Los Angeles youth early Saturday on charges of burglary growing out of the theft of a tape recorder from a car.

Phillip Van Nest Swann was charged with suspicion of burglary in connection with the theft of a tape recorder and a dozen tapes from a car belonging to Kim Crawford, 19, of 1212 Ynez St., Redondo Beach.

Crawford told police the tape recorder, worth \$217, was taken from his car early Friday morning. The car was parked at a service station at Redondo Beach and Crenshaw Boulevards.

Police said Swann was seen in the area at the time of the theft.

Young Salesman Honored . . .

A 17-year-old West High School junior has been selected the "Best Junior Achievement Salesman" at the Southwest Business Center for 1965-66. John Herman, who lives at 5102 Laurette St., is assistant treasurer of United Production, a Junior Achievement firm counseled by United Airlines. Sondra Sparling, a 15-year-old North High student, was one of the three other finalists in the selection.

X-Ray Clinic Scheduled . . .

An evening x-ray clinic will be held Thursday from 1 to 7 p. m. at the Torrance Health Center, 2300 W. Carson St., it was reported yesterday by Earl W. Kendrick, M. D., Torrance District Health Officer. The clinics are being scheduled as a regular service, Dr. Kendrick said. They will be held on the third Thursday of each month. Doors will close promptly at 7 p. m. Thursday, the doctor said.

Christopher to Speak . . .

George Christopher, a strong Republican candidate for Governor, will be a special guest of St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church on March 20 when the Parish Council celebrates Greek Independence Day with a dinner. Christopher, the son of Greek immigrants, is "dramatic proof that America is still the promised land," a church spokesman said when announcing the meeting.